30 July 1966

Dear Miss McAlinden:

These were not too bad, all things being considered. Or to phrase it another way, I have seen worse.

1 - Is the showy Cuphea ignea A. DC. of the Lythraceae. It is indeed a showy flowered herb, especially considering that it has no petals. The showy portion is the tubular red calyx. It is called the Cigar Flower because of the red tube, black band toward the tip, and ash-colored mouth of the tube.

2 - Is one of our common sagebrushes, Artemesia douglasiana Bess. in Hook. I was unaware that this plant had officinal qualities. Perhaps your book can tell you much more. Perhaps the pharmaceutical houses should investigate this.

3 - This could not be New Zealand-spinach, since that species of Aizoaceae is without purple flowers and lacks petals. This seems to be the related Aptenia (Mesembryanthemum) cordifolia Schwant., which does have purple flowers and does volunteer sometimes along the California coast. Like most of the Mesems, it is a native of South Africa.

4 - Is the rather common western weedy Solanum triflorum Nutt. with much lobed leaves. Thus, you did have the right genus. Don't lose hope, we all make mistakes occasionally.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Thorne